ments exist, marking the ages that have gone by, and each distinctly proclaiming the epoch to which it owes its existence. The residence of the Britons, the Romans, the Saxons, and the Danes, is designated by appropriate monuments. These were followed by the baronial castles, and religious houses; the cathedrals and churches of the Normans; and the distinctive style which characterized each particular era, is marked in broad and indelible lines which cannot be mistaken. These remarkable peculiarities appear to have been unaccountably overlooked. If they are seen it is only to be disregarded; and the student in antiquities moves on in the dark, enlightened only by painful and laborious researches, with scarcely a ray to conduct him in his path."

Of this "drake-stone," our author gives a description in the appendix:—

"It is a large irregular oval stone, standing in a field about half a mile north by west of the church. When I first heard of it, its upper surface was sunk 4 feet beneath the surface of the earth; and it was consequently invisible; but by the kindness of the rector on whose land it stands, it was disinterred and placed in its primitive situation. It occupies a conspicuous position; commanding not only a line of beacons which run along the borders of the fen towards the east, but also *the high place* at Dorrington, and the station at Kyme; and from its vicinity to Tattershall might be dedicated to Teut or Mercury. The dimensions are 6 feet 8½ inches long, by 4 feet 2½ inches broad, and 7 feet 2 inches high, measuring from the extreme points; and it was selected by the Druids, for its egg-like shape, because an egg was considered as the fountain of life, and an expressive emblem of the Creator. It was supported on a smaller stone so contrived as to form an aperture of sufficient capacity to admit a man on all fours. The upper part has been flattened by the chisel, and contains an irregularly shaped basin with lips or channels which extend to the edge of the stone. Though of vast weight, it has evidently been brought from a distant part of the country as it is of a different quality from the material which the neighbouring quarries produce; and the lordship of Aswick is a strong clay soil without any substratum of stone whatever.

As the native Britons had an overweening attachment to these stone idols, it was the advice of Pope Gregory to Augustine, for the purpose of reconciling the Pagan converts to the new faith, to celebrate its rites in places which were invested with a sacred character; for the missionaries, finding it wholly impracticable to wean them from their accustomed veneration for these holy places, in their proselyting zeal not only transformed the bards and Druids into Christian priests, but inscribed the stone idols of superior sanctity with the emblem of their faith, thus transferring the adoration to the Saviour of mankind."*

The river Witham was accounted a sacred stream, and its banks were the site of many edifices of Druidical origin. The larger open temples of the Britons were frequently removed to give place to a Christian church,—"which excited the unappeasable indignation of the people, who appear to have been shocked at the sacrilege. Specimens of this indignation may be found in the bardic writings. Thus, Merddin complains to Taliesin, amongst other things, of the profanation committed by a removal of the *grey stones*, for which a terrible retribution is threatened. (Welch Arch. vol. 1, p. 48,) And in another poem (Ibid. p. 74), this retribution is explained to mean, the absolute destruction of the world; which the fanatical bards expected would certainly take place, as the punishment of such a horrible desecration."

"There are instances on record where the temples contained two altars, one for the use of the Christians, and the other for the unconverted natives, who were permitted to assemble there, and offer their sacrifices to the Saxon triad Woden-Thor-Frea.

Of the conversion of heathen temples to the service of Christianity there are many instances:—

"At Stanton Drew in Somersetshire, are the ruins of a Druid temple, to which the devotional feelings of the people were so strongly wedded, that it became necessary to consecrate it to the services of Christianity by the erection of a church and nunnery on its site. Abury Church was not only built on the foundations of the ancient temple, but was constructed of the very stones which composed the sanctuary. The Druidical monument of Long Meg and her daughters, in Cumberland, was consecrated by the erection of Addingham Church; as was also the Giant's Cave on the river Eden; and even the stupendous temple of Stonehenge had Christian honours attached to it, by the construction of a church near to its external boundary; and the village was dignified with the original appellation of the sacred monument. And this custom was not peculiar to the Druids of our own country, for Stukeley says, that at Chartres, in France, where the Gaulish Druids held their chief assembly, there is now a magnificent church built upon the very spot where stood that most celebrated open temple."

Our author concludes that the abbeys of Bardney, Tupholme, Stixwold, and Kirkstead, of which he gives much curious and erudite information (not architectural), were each the seat of a Druidical place of worship, as already referred to.

"In many cases the name of *chapel*, as at Chapel Hill on the Witham, at Dorrington, and Kirkby Green, each of which had its Chapel Hill, will indicate a site of Druidical origin."*

Relative to Kirkstead Abbey, he says:—

"Kirkstead, like Bardney, is a British name, 'Cir, hirs, shires, churches, all took their appellation and form from the Celtic radical *hir* or *cir*, a circle. Church or kirk comes from *kir-rock*, the circle of stones; by contraction it is *Kirk*, and by corruption church. A kirk, church, or place of worship in druidical times, was literally no more than a circle of stones.' (Hutch. Camb. vol. i. p. 251.) The learned and ingenious Faber says, that '*circus* and *circulus* are both derived from cir or cur, the sun.' (Mys. Cab. vol. i. p. 213."

As bearing on this point, we may mention that in a letter from Mr. Charles M. Jopling on certain Druidical remains in Furness, communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by Mr. Godwin (*Archæologia*, Vol. xxxi. p. 448), a circle (formed by a bank of earth and stones) is described, which is still called "The Kirk." Tradition says, "it was a place where their forefathers worshipped." The manor in which it is situated, is known as that of Kirkby.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The Poor Law Guardians of the Birmingham Union propose to erect a new workhouse on the site of the present one, adding about one-fourth to the extent of the present buildings, an accommodation which "A Guardian," in *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, represents as altogether insufficient, at the same time recalling attention to "the startling fact, that no child born in the Birmingham workhouse for many years past has ever been reared," and therefore strongly advocating the propriety of erecting the new workhouse in a high and well drained situation at Birmingham heath, where there are twenty acres of land belonging to the parish.——The new church at Aston, near Stone, erected and endowed by Lord and Lady Vincent, was consecrated by the Bishop of Lichfield on Thursday week.——The Commissioners of Paving and Sewerage at Liverpool, have been very properly adopting measures to ascertain the perfect security of the balconies and stages on the line of procession during Prince Albert's visit.——It is proposed to open the three new public parks at Manchester on the 12th proximo, the anniversary of the origin of the 32,000*l.* subscription.——The parish church of St. Peter, Nottingham, was re-opened on Sunday week, on the completion of its general repair. During the removal of the whitewash, &c., several curious and interesting discoveries were made, such as that of a piece of ancient church music of about the year 1480 scratched upon the stone, probably by the mason who worked it. The flowered dispering was also laid bare in many places. It was for the express purpose of concealing any "profane show" of decorations, &c., as many of our readers are probably aware, that whitewash was first used in churches. The repairs were entrusted to Mr. Place, a young Nottingham architect, and appear to have given complete satisfaction.——Messrs. Bowers and Murray have so far completed their contract of the Railway Dock, at Hull, that the water has been admitted, and the workmen withdrawn to their new undertaking at the East or Victoria Dock. On this occasion about 300 of those employed were entertained with good cheer and friendly feeling by Mr. Murray, at his temporary office on the works.

CONVERSION OF AREAS.

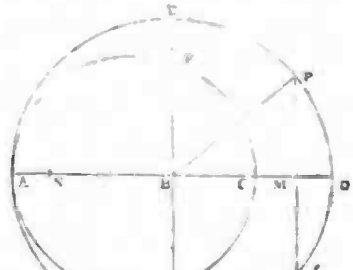
SOLUTION OF "R. H.'S" PROBLEM.

In the inclosed solution of problem, which appeared in page 331, should be welcome, I beg you will make use of it.

The proposer of the problem does not seem aware that the solution does not depend upon the lines EF, CD. J. W. B.

Bisect CD in M. Through M draw PMP' at right angles to AD. Then PP' shall be the diameter of the circle required.

Join BP. Take AN = CM or MD. Then because AN = CM, adding to each NC, we have AC = NM: *i.e.* NM = diameter of small



circle AFC. And because AB = BD and AN = MD ∴ remainder BN = remainder BM: *i.e.* B is the centre of the circle described on MN as a diameter, and BM = radius of the same circle.

Now ∴ circles are to one another as the squares of their radii; we have

Area of ⊙ AED : Area of ⊙ of which PP' is diameter :: $BP^2 : MP^2$; and

Area of ⊙ AFC : area of ⊙ of which PP' is diameter :: $BM^2 : MP^2$.

∴ (Eucl. V. 24, 1.) The excess of area of ⊙ AED over area of ⊙ AFC : area of ⊙ of which PP is diameter :: the excess of BP^2 over $BM^2 : MP^2$; *i.e.* Crescent-shaped space. AEFDCA : area of ⊙ of which PP is diameter :: $BP^2 - MB^2 : MP^2$ (Euel. 1., 47) :: $MP^2 : MP^2 :: 1 : 1$.

The Registrar General on Health.—The inadequate supplies of water by companies, the imperfect sewerage in towns, the open drains and ditches, and the general neglect of cleanliness, leave every where great quantities of organic matter to decay and putrify in the midst of crowded populations. In such circumstances, the mortality, like putrifaction, is always increased when the temperature is high; and epidemics of diarrhœa, dysentery, and cholera prevail. Many thousands of the people of England were carried off in the last quarter by these diseases, and others of the zymotic class.

British Archæological Association.—The annual congress will be held in Gloucester, commencing on Monday next, and closing on the following Saturday. The arrangements promise a very interesting week: we shall give full particulars.

* A curious instance of this kind of compromise is exhibited in the parish of Luan Hammwich, in Brecknockshire, in the shape of a beautiful specimen of a Druidical adytum or kistvaen, near which the early converts not only erected a church, but converted the adytum itself into the hermitage of a Christian saint; and no greater proof can be wanting of the attachment which was borne by the natives to the Misletoean temple once existing on the spot, than the fact that it required the aid of such an artifice to accommodate the true religion to the superstitious spirit of the times.

* Thus, on Temple Downs in Wiltshire, a Kistvaen formerly existed which bore the name of Old Chapel; and many examples of the same kind are stated in a letter from Dr. Gordon to Mr. Aubrey, which has been inserted by Hutchinson in his History of Cumberland.

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